



DEC 22 2005 00025

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency

A California State Water Project Contractor
1210 Beaumont Avenue • Beaumont, CA 92223
Phone (951) 845-2577 • Fax (951) 845-0281

December 13, 2005

President:
John Jeter

Mr. Lester Snow
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Vice President:
Ray Morris

Treasurer:
Jim Andersen

Dear Director Snow:

Directors:
Richard Larsen
Chris Mann
Jim Snyder
Barbara Voigt

On behalf of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (Pass Agency), I am writing to express my agency's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP). The SDIP is a critical water supply, water quality, and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. Recently, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S), beginning an important 90-day public review and comment process.

*General Manager
& Chief Engineer*
Jeff Davis, PE

The Pass Agency is one of 29 State Water Contractors, most of whom depend on the Delta for our water supply. Located in one of the fastest growing parts of the State, our local retailers are experiencing large annual increases in water demands. These retailers depend on the Pass Agency to help meet their growing demands. Without access to the Delta, local agencies would have to mine local groundwater basins to meet these demands.

Legal Counsel:
*McCormick, Kidman
& Behrens*

California is facing a critical challenge--we need a safe, reliable and high quality water supply to keep up with our rising population and economy. However, we have limited water supplies, so we must better utilize our existing water resources and infrastructure; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment and businesses at risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system.

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and ecosystem. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan, including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal resource agencies. SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta.

DEC 22 2005 00025

Mr. Lester Snow
Page two

SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water supply reliability, water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly – when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

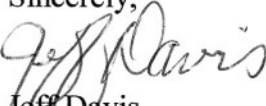
Currently, the state is limited in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure, but until SDIP is approved, water managers cannot fully use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option – it will not require the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000.

Importantly, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources. Specifically, it will help protect fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California. It is our responsibility to use this resource wisely through best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water system so that we can continue to accommodate growth while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, we strongly support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Sincerely,

Jeff Davis
General Manager

DEC 22 2005

00025

cc (*by facsimile*): Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, (916) 445-4633

Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game,
(916) 653-7387

Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency, (916) 653-
8102

Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority, (916) 445-
7297

Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of
Reclamation, (916) 978-5114

Mr. Fred Aguiar, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358